



By the King.

A Proclamation, whereby it is commanded,
That the Oath of Allegiance be administred
according to the Lawes.



THE Oath, which was by the body of Our Parliament assembled in the thirde yeere of Our Raigne of England deuised, to discouer how Our Subjects stood affected in point of their Loyaltie and due Obedience, hath bene found so necessary for these times, as that the same body of Parliament being againe lately assembled in the seventh yeere of Our said Raigne, hath in all humilitie besought Us to Enact, That the same might be administred, not onely to such as may seeme subiect to suspition, but euen to all persons whatsoeuer, as a profession of that Loyaltie that is due, from all Our Subjects to Us their naturall liege Lord, and their native Countrey. This zeale of Our people we haue good cause to approue, And so much we owe to their iust satisfaction tending to Our owne safety, and the preservation of Our kingdomes, as to see that Oath administred according to their humble petitions: And therefore wee doe by these presents straitly charge and command all the Lords, and others of Our Prinie Counsell, Archbishops, Bishops, Iustices of Assise, Iustices of Peace and all others whom it may concerne, That they doe minister the saide Oath to all persons, and especially to those to whom it may and ought to bee administred by the Statute made in the said thirde yeere of Our Raigne; And that they proceed against such as shall refuse the same according to our Lawes respectinely, And doe also certifie vnto Our selfe, or to Our Prinie Counsell before the Feast of All Saints next comming after the date hereof, the names, places of abode, and condition of all such as shall so refuse to take the same Oath. And though wee could (for the loue wee beare to all

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Our Subjects, to Whom wee are by the Ordinance of God, in place of a father) With that there might no one bee found within Our Dominions that should refuse this Oath, Yet if any haue so farre estranged his heart from Us (his gracious Prince,) as to giue it, or any part of it to Forraine power, to the derogation of Our Crowne and dignitie, we hold the seruicentie of Our Lawes and Justice as due to him, as is Our fauour and benignitie to Our faithfull and wel deserving Subjects: Neuerthelesse, because this alienation of minde from Us and Our Crowne, is a preparation to a further and more dangerous defection, And therefore approacheth neere towards the highest offence of Maiestie, wee are resolved to retaine the whole order, power, and disposition of this case, and all forfeitures depending thereupon, in Our owne hands and to Our owne vse; And to appoint honourable and fit Commissioners, whose care it shall be to take true and particular information of all things considerable in euery seuerall case of this nature, and to informe Us thereof, that such order may thereupon bee taken, as shall stand aswell with the Justice of Our Lawes, as with Our naturall Clemencie. And because we would asmuch as may be preuent all challenge of indirect proceeding in a case that so deeply concerneth the Offendour, though in some cases, and to some persons, one onely Justice of Peace may minister the saide Oath, by the Statute made in that behalfe in the saide late Session of Parliament, holden in the saide seventh yeere of Our Raigne: Yet we are pleased to require, That in all cases where any such certificate as aforesaid, shalbe made vnto Us, or Our Prinie Counsel by Iustices of the Peace onely, that in such cases the Oath be ministred, and certificate made by two Iustices of Peace at the least, considering the importance of the same.

Giuen at WHITEHALL the 31. day of May, in the ninth yeere of Our
Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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